REMARKS

The Examiner has restricted the claims into six groups: Group I (claim 1) is directed to a purified peptide; Group II (claims 2-6 and 37-43) is directed to antibodies and kits containing the same; Group III (claims 7, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 44-46) is directed to methods of detecting apoptosis; Group IV (claims 15-19) is directed to methods of diagnosis; Group V (claims 20-29) is directed to methods of screening for compounds that inhibit apoptosis; and Group VI (claims 30-36) is directed to methods of screening for compounds that stimulate apoptosis. Applicants elect Group I (claim 1) with traverse.

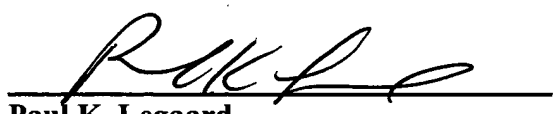
In order for an application to be properly required to be restricted, there must be a serious burden on the Examiner (see, MPEP §803). Indeed, the MPEP states that if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. In view of this position taken by the PTO, at a minimum, the claims of Group II must be examined along with the claims of group I. No amount of undue burden to the Patent Office is presented since all the groups require searching of the same class of subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be reconsidered and that, at a minimum, claims 1-6 and 37-43 be examined. Applicants submit that the present response is complete and complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §121.

New page 1 is provided herewith to comply with the Sequence Rules set forth in 37 CFR §§1.821-1.825. In addition, enclosed herewith is a copy of the Notice To Comply With Requirements For Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence And/Or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures, a Response to Notice To Comply With Requirements for Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosure, a Statement to Support Filing and Submission of DNA/Amino Acid Sequences in Accordance with 37 CFR §§1.821 through 1.825, and a computer readable form (CRF). The enclosed new page 1 contains the Sequence Listing, formatted under the new rules for submitting Sequence Listings, support for which can be found throughout the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added. In addition, the contents of the paper copy of the Sequence Listing and computer readable copy of the

Sequence Listing, submitted in accordance with 37 CFR §1.821(c) and (e), are the same. Applicants submit that the present response is complete and complies with the requirements of 37 CFR §§1.821-1.825.

Applicants also enclose a copy of the Power of Attorney with Revocation filed in connection with the above-identified application. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Application:

A Sequence Listing of one page has been added.